

SUMMARY OF WETLAND DELINEATOR
CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

September 9, 2008

| <i>ELEMENTS</i> | <i>IN-TRAINING (1)</i> | <i>CERTIFICATION (5)</i> |
|--|---|---|
| EFFECTIVE DATE | January 2006 | July 1, 2005 |
| VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION | Yes, unless directed by an employer. Certification is not required by the state of MN. | Yes, unless directed by an employer. Certification is not required by the state of MN. |
| EDUCATION AND TRAINING | One of the following: 1. A 4-year degree with broad coursework (2) 2. A 4-year degree in a related field <i>with</i> a 4-5 day basic delineation course 3. 1 year experience <i>and</i> a 4-5 day basic delineation course | One of the following are needed plus experience before the certification exam can be taken: 1. A 4-5 day basic wetland course concerning the 1987 CORPS manual, 1989 Interagency Manual or USDA National Food Security Act Manual 2. Broad coursework 3. 4-year degree (6) |
| EXPERIENCE (3) | None required | 3 years of experience (<i>as defined below</i>); 2 years with a Masters or PhD in a related field |
| WRITTEN EXAMINATION REQUIRED | Yes | Yes |
| TYPE OF EXAMINATION | Basic exam that tests knowledge of hydric soils, vegetation, hydrology and wetland classification. Difficulty of exam is consistent with the level of knowledge of someone with recent broad coursework but little or no experience in wetland delineation. | Comprehensive-type exam that tests knowledge of delineation concepts, criteria, and methods. Difficulty of exam is consistent with the level of knowledge of someone with training and experience in wetland delineation and is based on the 1987 CORPS Manual and supplements. |
| FIELD EXAMINATION | No | No |
| ETHICS AGREEMENT | No | Yes |
| REVIEW GROUP (Concerning Bad Practice) | Not applicable | Not currently established |
| REFERENCES | None required to take the exam | Applicants for certification must provide names and contact information for two references (letters from references not needed) |
| CONTINUING EDUCATION (4) | Yes – 6 hours per year after passing the examination | Yes – 12 hours per year after passing the examination |
| FEES | \$100 exam fee \$50 re-test fee \$25 annual Continuing Education and renewal fee | \$200 exam fee \$100 re-test fee \$75 annual Continuing Education and renewal fee |

- (1) Passing the in-training exam does not mean certification; it is a training and potential employment opportunity for those seeking future certification and an employment opportunity for those seeking to mentor future wetland professionals.
- (2) “Broad Coursework” would include wetland-specific courses and other classes relevant to wetland delineation drawn from physical or biological sciences and engineering.
- (3) Experience is defined as “*Where wetland management, wetland regulation, wetland delineation or wetland ecology activities are among the primary duties of their employment. A person so employed for one year would have experience equaling one year.*”
- (4) Continuing education is required after certification, and is defined as “*Pertinent seminars or training sessions totaling 12 or more hours (Professional Certification) or 6 or more hours (In-Training Certification) in duration each calendar year. The calendar year as identified by the Wetland Delineator Certification Program; September 1st – August 31st of each year. Hours may not carry over each year.*”
- (5) The certification exam can be taken by persons with education and experience, the in-training exam does not need to be taken first.
- (6) Although desirable, the “four year degree” need not be in a wetland-related field.